The Dr. John R. Sharp Memorial Scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to students wishing to attend field classes or conduct independent research during the summer months at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). Recipients of the scholarship will be undergraduate or graduate students who are returning to GCRL for a second summer of classes in the Summer Field Program (SFP) or who are continuing their independent research for a second summer. Students may attend one or both summer field sessions as a full-time student (five credit hours) or complete a minimum of five hours independent research during the summer term under the guidance of a Department of Coastal Sciences (COA) faculty member. This scholarship is available only for summer study/research.

AWARDS
The 2015 Sharp Scholarship award will be approximately $450. Students meeting the above requirements will receive a stipend based on the number of students receiving the award. A maximum of two (2) recipients will be identified each year. If two students are to receive an award, each student will receive one half (1/2) the scholarship funds available. If one student is to receive the scholarship, the entire amount available will be awarded to the student. The scholarship will be paid to the recipient(s) University of Southern Mississippi business account to help offset tuition and other academic expenses. All other academic and living expenses will be the responsibility of the recipient(s).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Applicant must be an undergraduate or graduate student returning for a second summer of study/research at the GCRL.
2. Applicant must register for full time credit (5 credit hours) in summer classes in one or both summer sessions or a minimum of five hours independent research under the guidance of a COA faculty member.
3. Applicant must reside in the dormitory on the GCRL campus during the summer program of study/research.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:
1. One letter of recommendation from an academic adviser or major professor
2. A short essay (not to exceed 250 words) on the subject of how attending Summer Field Program classes or conducting independent research at GCRL will help achieve your educational or career goals.

Scholarship applications are due by March 27, 2015. All applications will be evaluated by the Summer Field Program committee after the application deadline. The recipient(s) of the Dr. John R. Sharp Memorial Scholarship will be announced by April 15, 2015. The criteria that will be considered in awarding the scholarship includes the essay, overall GPA, letter of recommendation, and past performance in the GCRL SFP or previous independent research conducted at the GCRL by the students.

Completed scholarship applications should be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:
Required scholarship application materials should be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:
Mail: Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Attn: Summer Field Program Scholarship
703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

For more information, please contact us at gerlsfp@usm.edu.